

REMARKS

Please consider the newly entered claims. Please note that the subject matter of the Chapter II amended claims is editorially revised and rewritten to bring that subject matter into conformity with the United States claim format.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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[001]Desks**[002] FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[003] This invention relates to desks.

[004] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[005] The growing trend for homeworking increases the need for desks to be used in the home, placing demands on domestic space. The spare bedroom is often used as an office, but is frequently not big enough to provide space sufficient for both a bed and a desk or for both to be used comfortably.

[006] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[007] It is one object of the present to provide a form of desk that may be used to mitigate the above problem.

[008] According to the present invention there is provided a desk comprising a base-structure and a desk-top supported by the base-structure, wherein the desk-top is moveable relative to the base-structure for conversion of the desk to a bed, the desk-top when so moved extending substantially horizontally from the base-structure for defining with the base-structure an elongate substantially-horizontal support-surface of the bed.

[009] The desk of the invention accordingly has two configurations in a first of which it has the form of, and is useable conventionally as, a desk, and in the second of which, following movement of the desk-top as aforesaid, is useable as a bed. Accordingly, the desk of the invention combines in the one item of furniture, the two functions of desk and bed, and can be readily converted from one to the other. The desk therefore offers the possibility of saving domestic space in the provision of desk- and bed- functions selectively.

[010] The desk-top may be pivotally mounted on the base-structure, and in this regard may be pivoted to a frame-member that is itself pivoted to the base-structure. In the latter circumstances, the frame-member may extend substantially horizontally from the base-structure intermediate the base-structure and the desk-top as part of said support-surface when the desk is converted to a bed.

[011] As an alternative, the desk-top may be pivoted to the base-structure for lifting up and over to extend upside down substantially horizontally from the base-

structure. In these circumstances, the upper work-surface of the desk-top may be backed by a sheet of plastics foam such that said sheet is uppermost when the desk is converted to a bed. Also, the base-structure may be a pedestal-supported panel having an upper surface of plastics foam, and the desk may include means for selective adjustment of the height of the base-structure.

[012] The desk of the invention may include provision for accommodating and retaining a mattress or futon for use with the bed. More especially, and according to a feature of the present invention, there is provided a desk wherein the base-structure for supporting the top of the desk includes interconnected recesses for accommodating and retaining a mattress or futon within the desk, the recesses extending within the desk from a first recess covered by the desk-top into a second recess located behind an upright wall of the base-structure, and wherein the desk-top is moveable relative to the base-structure for conversion of the desk to a bed, the desk-top when so moved extending substantially horizontally from the base-structure for defining with the base-structure an elongate substantially-horizontal support-surface of the bed and uncovering the first recess to enable release of the mattress or futon from within the second recess for deployment on the support-surface.

[013] ~~BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS~~

[014] Two forms of desk in accordance with the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[015] Figure 1 is a perspective view from the front, of a first of the convertible desks of the invention, when configured for use as a desk;

[016] Figure 2 is a sectional view of the desk of Figure 1 when configured for use as a desk and containing a futon, the section being taken on the lines II-II of Figure 1;

[017] Figures 3 and 4 are a side elevation and a perspective view respectively, of the desk of Figure 1 when converted to have the form of a bed, successive stages of the conversion being illustrated in broken line in Figure 3;

[018] Figure 5 is a perspective view from the front of the second desk of the invention when configured for use as a desk;

[019] Figure 6 is a sectional view of part of the desk of Figure 5, the section being taken on the line VI-VI of Figure 5; and

[020] Figure 7 is a perspective view from the front, with parts broken away, of the desk of Figure 5 when converted to have the form of a bed.

[021] ~~DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION~~

[022] Referring to Figures 1 and 2, the substantially-horizontal top 1 of the desk is supported on a base or carcass 2 that includes two drawer-units 3. The units 3 are spaced laterally from one another to define a well 4 to accommodate the desk-user's legs when he/she is sitting up to the desk.

[023] As shown by Figure 2, the height of the well 4 is defined by horizontal slatting 5 of the carcass 2. The slatting 5, which extends across the full width of the desk over the units 3, is spaced below the desk-top 1 to leave a recess 6 in the carcass 2, covered by the top 1. The horizontal recess 6 is contiguous with, so as to extend into, a vertical recess 7 that throughout the full width of the desk is defined in the carcass 2 between an upright back wall 8 of the desk and an upright inner wall 9. The recesses 6 and 7 combine to provide accommodation and support for a futon 10 concealed within the desk.

[024] The futon 10 is accommodated in a folded condition within the desk. Approximately two thirds of the futon-length is received folded in half as portions 11 and 12 standing upright within the recess 7, whereas the remaining portion 13 extends folded down substantially horizontally from the portion 12 into the recess 6. The futon-portion 13 lies under the desk-top 1 on the slatting 14 of a partially-slatted frame 15 that rests within the recess 6 on the slatting 5. The frame 15, which is pivoted on either side to the desk-top 1 towards the back of the desk, is itself pivoted to the carcass 2 at the front of the desk.

[025] When the desk has the normal configuration shown in Figures 1 and 2, it is useable as, and provides the conventional facilities of, a knee-hole desk. However, the configuration of the desk can be changed to convert it into a bed simply by releasing a lock (not shown) that secures the top 1 covering the carcass 2 and lifting the top 1 up from the carcass 2 about the pivoting with the frame 15. This allows the futon-portion 13 to rise from the recess 6 and be freed from within the frame 15